

## FOUR MINUTE MILE

Cross , at Oxford, Magdalen Bridge then cycle round,  
To reach, tucked in the river Cherwell's basin,  
The, now fabled, Iffley Road Athletic Ground.  
Here, a year on from Everest and her Coronation,  
Three Achilles meet to plan and carve their notch.  
One of them will run four circuits of the track  
Against the second hand's four circuits of a watch.  
Is it on? The wind is strong; let's wait a sec.  
Saint George's flag is dipped to start the race.  
Three laps on time, then Bannister's let free;  
The second hand is breathing down his neck;  
The tape, the wait and then McWhirter's "three".  
Fated, we thank the gods for Iffley Meadow,  
And I can claim: "Et in arcadia ego".

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